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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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60 Sterling Street
Beacon, NY 12508

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Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

My business partner Jack Harrison and I are delighted to see a settlement between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. This settlement is in the best interest of free enterprise and competition.

The attack on Microsoft should never have happened. It demonstrates why the government should keep its hands out of the affairs of free enterprise. It has been another huge waste of taxpayers' money and government and private resources. As business partners in the direct-mail industry, we know that waste must be minimized; budgeting, purchasing, sales, all contribute to business growth and weigh heavily on success or failure.

Resolving to give Microsoft its business back will end the three years of government intervention into Microsoft. This has disrupted the computer and technical industries, where recession and the loss of business have been of paramount concern. Microsoft has continued in its role as the industry leader in providing innovative software (the public and business world have been shouting this for years). The new obligations Microsoft has agreed to will drive competition and collaboration among industries to develop better and more innovative products for consumers, while also providing computer users software options and computer configurations never before seen.

The Department of Justice is at a historical moment in time: preventing more waste while also encouraging economic recovery. The achievement of this will occur when the government precludes any further litigation against Microsoft and accepts these very fair settlement terms.

Sincerely,

John Oakes

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